

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00016 051045Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----051048Z 077280 /14

P R 050910Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 982
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T USNATO 0016

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO11652 GDS
TAGS MARR PFOR NATO BE US
SUBJECT POSSIBLE EUCOM MOVE TO BELGIUM

REF (A) STATE 314130, (B) BRUSSELS 12689, (C) BONN 0059

1. THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL A CAN BEST BE ANSWERED, WE
RECOGNIZE, BY EMBASSIES BONN AND BRUSSELS. AS A CONTRIBUTION
TO CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE, WE WOULD LIKE TO FLAG THE
POSSIBLE NEED TO PREPARE ALLIES OTHER THAN BELGIUM AND THE
FRG TO ACCEPT MOVE OF EUCOM TO BELGIUM SHOULD SUCH A DECISION
BE MADE.

2. THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE OTHER ALLIES, ASSUMING BELGIUM
AND FRG AGREEMENT TO THE MOVE, IS LIKE TO FOCUS ON THE
"AMERICANIZATION" OF THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF SHAPE, WHICH
COULD GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF AN OVERWHELMING US PRESENCE.
THIS, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BE A PLAUSIBLE CONCERN, BUT
COULD BE ALLEVIATED BY STRESSING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS
TO THE ALLIANCE OF THE MOVE. THEREFORE, FROM A STRICTLY
NATO STANDPOINT, WE BELIEVE THAT IF BELGIUM AND THE FRG
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AGREE TO THE MOVE, THAT THE OTHER NATO ALLIES ARE
UNLIKELY TO RAISE MAJOR OBJECTIONS IF REPEAT IF THEY
RECEIVE TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFINGS ON THE
RATIONALE FOR SUCH A MOVE.

3. ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL
ADVANTAGES TO SACEUR OF RELOCATING EUCOM, WE BELIEVE THAT
A VALID STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION CAN BE INVOKED TO JUSTIFY
RELOCATION; NAMELH, THAT EUCOM HEADQUARTERS, LIKE OTHER
MAJOR NATIONAL AND NATO HEADQUARTERS, WOULD BEST BE

LOCATED TO THE REAR OF EUROM COMBAT UNITS. MANY EUROM
COMBAT UNITS ARE CURRENTLY STATIONED IN THE STUTTGART AREA.
THIS STRATEGIC ARGUMENT, PROPERLY DEVELOPED, COULD BE
UTILIZED WITH DAVIGNON (REF B), AND HELP MEET POTENTIAL
FRG CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN PARA 4 OF REF C. STRAUSZ-HUPE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Date: 22 May 2009
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO00016
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770191/baaabbav.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 948f84de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3679678
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040726
Subject: SUBJECT POSSIBLE EUCOM MOVE TO BELGIUM
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NATO, BE, US
To: STATE INFO BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/948f84de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009